

stream [supplied by a selected one of the data sources to identify receipt of desired data] received by the user station, the data stream including both the desired data objects and other data objects;
[and,]

[a capture function that automatically captures the desired data identified by the monitor function] store the desired data objects; and

[wherein the data stream includes both the desired data and other data] provide the stored desired data objects to the one or more software applications.

2. (Amended) The software as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the [capture function automatically captures the] desired data objects are stored [by storing it] in temporary storage [within] at the user station.

3. (Amended) The software as set forth in Claim 2, [further comprising a fetch function that fetches] wherein the software is further controllable to cause the user station to fetch the desired data objects from the temporary storage.

4. (Amended) The software as set forth in Claim 2, [further comprising a fetch function that fetches] wherein the software is further controllable to cause the user station to fetch the desired data objects from the temporary storage[,] and [prepares it] prepare them for use.

5. (Amended) The software as set forth in Claim 1, [further comprising] wherein the one or more software applications include a user interface function that enables a user to select the desired data objects [source from a listing of available data sources].

6. (Amended) The software as set forth in Claim 1, [further comprising an application programming interface that enables a higher-level] wherein the one or more software [entity to] applications select the desired data objects [source from a listing of available data sources].

7. (Amended) The software as set forth in Claim 6, wherein the [high-level] software [entity contains] is embeddable in each of the plurality of different software applications.

8. (Amended) The software as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the data stream is a broadcast [by the selected data source] data stream.

9. (Amended) The software as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:
the user station [is equipped with] includes a tuner that is [selectively] tunable to a selected one of a plurality of available broadcast data channels; and
the data stream [comprises the data stream] is broadcast [by the selected data source] via the selected one of the plurality of available broadcast data channels.

10. (Amended) The software as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the desired data [comprises] objects comprise data objects to which a user at the user station is entitled.

11. (Amended) The software as set forth in Claim 1, [further comprising a selector function that can be invoked to tune the user station to a selected one of a plurality of available broadcast data channels, wherein the data stream automatically monitored by the monitor function comprises the data stream broadcast by the selected data source via the selected one of the plurality of available broadcast data channels] wherein the data stream is broadcast over the Internet.

12. (Amended) The software as set forth in Claim 1, [further comprising a selector function that can be invoked to select the data stream automatically monitored by the monitor function from a plurality of available data channels] wherein the data stream is a multicast data stream.

13. (Amended) The software as set forth in Claim [12] 1, [further comprising an

application programming interface, wherein the selector function can be invoked through the application programming interface] wherein the software is further controllable to cause the user station to fetch a schedule from a remote schedule source, and
wherein the desired data objects are stored at the user station in accordance with the fetched schedule.

14. (Amended) The software as set forth in Claim [12] 1, [further comprising an application programming interface interconnecting the selector function and the monitor function] wherein the desired data objects are provided to the one or more software applications in accordance with a schedule.

15. (Amended) The software as set forth in Claim [12] 1, [further comprising:
a user interface function that enables a user at the user station to invoke the selector function; and,
an application programming interface interconnecting the user interface function and the selector function] wherein the desired data objects are provided to the one or more software applications in accordance with a user triggering action.

16. (Amended) A method for operating a user station [that is configured for communications with a multiplicity of independently-operated data sources via a non-proprietary network], comprising:

fetching a schedule from a remote schedule source;

[monitoring] receiving a broadcast data stream, the broadcast data stream including one or more desired data objects and other data objects [supplied by a selected one of the data sources to identify receipt of desired data]; and,

capturing and storing the one or more desired data objects from the received broadcast data stream in accordance with the fetched schedule [identified by the monitoring operation; wherein the data stream includes both the desired data and other data].

17. (Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 16, wherein the [capturing is performed by storing the] one or more desired data [identified by the monitoring operation] objects are stored in temporary storage [within] at the user station.

18. (Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 17, further comprising fetching the one or more desired data objects from the temporary storage.

19. (Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 18, further comprising preparing the fetched one or more desired data objects for use at the user station.

20. (Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 16, wherein the one or more desired data objects are supplied by a first one of a plurality of independently operated data sources and wherein the method further [comprising] comprises selecting the first one of the plurality of independently operated data [source] sources from a listing of [available] each of the plurality of independently operated data sources.

21. (Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 20, wherein an application programming interface enables a [higher-level] software [entity] application to [perform the operation of selecting] select the first one of the plurality of independently operated data [source from the listing of available data] sources.

22. (Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 16, wherein the broadcast data stream is [broadcast] broadcasted by [the selected data source] multicasting.

23. (Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 16, [wherein] further comprising:
tuning the user station [is equipped with a tuner that is selectively tunable] to [a selected one of a plurality of available] receive the broadcast data [channels] stream]; and
the data stream comprises the data stream broadcast by the selected data source via the

selected one of the plurality of available broadcast data channels].

24. (Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 16, wherein the one or more desired data [comprises] objects comprise data objects to which a user at the user station is entitled.

25. (Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 16, [further comprising tuning the user station to a selected one of a plurality of available broadcast data channels, wherein the data stream that is monitored comprises the data stream broadcast by the selected data source via the selected one of the plurality of available broadcast data channels] wherein the method is performed a plurality of consecutive times, wherein during each time the method is performed, a user at the user station can access desired data objects that have previously been captured and stored during a prior time the method is performed.

26. (Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 16, [further comprising selecting the data stream that is monitored from a plurality of available data channels] wherein a user at the user station selects the one or more desired data objects to be captured and stored.

27. (Amended) The method as set forth in Claim 16, wherein the [network comprises] broadcast data stream is broadcast over the Internet.

28. (Amended) A user station [that is configured for communications with a multiplicity of independently-operated data sources via a non-proprietary network], comprising:

logic for fetching a schedule from a remote schedule source;

[means] logic for [monitoring] receiving a broadcast data stream, the broadcast data stream including one or more desired data objects supplied by a selected one of the data sources to identify receipt of desired data; and,

[means] logic for capturing and storing the one or more desired data objects from the received broadcast data stream in accordance with the fetched schedule [identified by the

monitoring operation;

wherein the data stream includes both the desired data and other data].

29. (Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 28, wherein [the means for capturing stores] the one or more desired data [identified by the means for monitoring] objects are stored in temporary storage [within] at the user station.

30. (Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 29, further comprising [means] logic for fetching the one or more desired data objects from the temporary storage.

31. (Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 30, further comprising [means] logic for preparing the fetched one ore more desired data objects for use at the user station.

32. (Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 28, wherein the one or more desired data objects are supplied by a first one of a plurality of independently operated data sources and wherein the user station further [comprising means] comprises logic for selecting the first one of the plurality of independently operated data [source] sources from a listing of [available] each of the plurality of independently operated data sources.

33. (Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 28, wherein the broadcast data stream is [broadcast] broadcasted by [the selected data source] multicasting.

34. (Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 28, further comprising a tuner that is [selectively] tunable to [a selected one of a plurality of available] receive the broadcast data [channels] stream[, wherein the data stream comprises the data stream broadcast by the selected data source via the selected one of the plurality of available broadcast data channels].

35. (Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 28, wherein the one or more desired data [comprises] objects comprise data to which a user at the user station is entitled.

36. (Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 28, [further comprising means for tuning the user station to a selected one of a plurality of available broadcast data channels, wherein the data stream that is monitored comprises the data stream broadcast by the selected data source via the selected one of the plurality of available broadcast data channels] wherein the user station enables a user to access the one or more captured and stored desired data objects while the user station receives, captures, and stores additional desired data objects.

37. (Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 28, [further comprising means for selecting the data stream that is monitored from a plurality of available data channels] wherein a user at the user station selects the one or more desired data objects to be captured and stored.

38. (Amended) The user station as set forth in Claim 28, wherein the [network comprises] broadcast data stream is broadcast over the Internet.

REMARKS

The Office Action was mailed on August 15, 2002 and set a shortened three month statutory reply period. Attached hereto is a Petition for a Three Month Extension of Time and our authorization to charge the prescribed fee to our Deposit Account. It is respectfully submitted that the Petition is timely filed since the period for response to which has been extended through February 19, 2003 (due to February 15, 2003 being a Saturday, February 16, 2003 being a Sunday, February 17, 2003 being a national holiday, and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office being closed on February 18, 2003 due to an official "snow-emergency"). Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee